

Member:
Land Trust Alliance
CT Land Conservation Council
HVA Greenprint Collaboration



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To the members of the Environment Committee:

We are writing on behalf of Hartland Land Trust regarding the raised bill, **S.B. No. 1148: An act authorizing certain killing and hunting of black bear and prohibiting bird feeders and other unintentional feeding of potentially dangerous animals.**

We are pleased to see that the Environment Committee is again tackling the important issue of the feeding of wildlife. We have seen in our own town that the lack of a statewide ban on wildlife feeding prevents DEEP's staff from taking action against those who are purposefully and persistently feeding wildlife on any land that is not owned by the State. Unfortunately, the only tools left to DEEP when feeding occurs on private land and bears become habituated, posing a threat to neighboring humans, is behavioral training of the bears ("hazing") or, if that approach fails, the euthanizing of the problem animals.

While HLT is supportive of the ban on wildlife feeding in the above-mentioned bill, we question the wisdom of including the authorization of bear hunting in the proposed legislation. Hunting bears, it seems to us, is more controversial than the feeding ban. By linking the two issues, it seems that the Environment Committee is insuring that the current legislative session will close without action being taken on a statewide wildlife feeding ban. Why not de-couple these two issues, work to pass a wildlife feeding ban during this session, and, if this effort is successful, take up bear hunting separately in a future legislative session?

We would be deeply disappointed if, once again, the current session ends without the passage of a statewide bear-feeding ban. Please separate out the two issues, give DEEP the tools they need to prevent the habituation of bears now, and let the debate on allowing bear hunting to continue.

Fred Jones
Susan Pearson
Co-Presidents

"Working for the preservation and enjoyment of open space in our community"